

**Wilson Creek Watershed Improvement Project, Rugby, VA**

**Project Location: Grayson County, Virginia**

**Congressional District of Project: VA 9th**

**Congressional District of Applicant: VA 9th**

**NFHP/EBTJV Funding Request: \$50,000**

**Total of Other Federal Funding Contributions: \$20,000**

**Total of Non-Federal Funding Contributions: \$50,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$120,000**

**Applicant:**

Project Officer: Dawn Kirk  
Organization: USFS, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest  
Street: 27 Ranger Lane  
City, State, Zip: Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579  
Telephone Number: 540-291-5211  
Fax Number: 540-291-1759  
EMail Address: dkirk@fs.fed.us

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sponsoring Office:**

Project Officer: Callie McMunigal  
Fish and Wildlife Service Office: Appalachian Partnership Coordination Office  
Street: 400 East Main Street  
City, State, Zip: White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986  
Telephone Number: 304-536-1361 x.151  
Fax Number: 304-536-3235  
EMail Address: callie\_mcmunigal@fws.us.gov

**USFWS FONS Database Project Number: 53374-2016-409**

**Coordination Completed with Sponsoring U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office  
(Check One):**

Yes  
 No

**September 8, 2017 Date Coordination Began**

## I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION, SCOPE OF WORK, AND PARTNER INFORMATION

- A. Project Goal:** Protect the streams in the Wilson Creek watershed which support native wild brook trout, and because of their spring-fed sources and high elevation, will be quality refugia in terms of water quality, quantity, and thermal characteristics during times of climate uncertainty.
- B. Project Description:** The streams in the Wilson Creek watershed drain the high country of Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, in Grayson County, VA. The project area is at the intersection of the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, and includes portions of the Little Wilson Creek Wilderness and Grayson Highlands State Park. The area is managed with prescribed fire and permitted grazing to be a mix of spruce forest and high elevation open country. The Forest Service (FS) and partners are proposing to protect the headwaters of Wilson Creek and promote spruce restoration by fencing permitted long-horn cattle, wild ponies, and horse trail users out of the high elevation bogs and seeps, stabilize streambanks, and reduce erosion from existing and user-created trails.
- C. Project Methods/Design (Max Characters: 350):** Utilize funding to purchase material, build fence around headwater bogs and seeps, re-establish appropriate drainage structures along hiking/horse trails, and gravel stream approaches. Unauthorized user-created trails will be closed and rehabilitated. Hardwood trees competing with young red spruce will be girdled to promote spruce growth and recruitment and spruce seedlings will be planted.

### D. Project Timeline:

Activity	Responsible Person	Start date	Completion Date
Grant applications	USFS & partners	Aug. 2017	Sept. 2017
NEPA	Pauline Adams, Dawn Kirk, USFS	Oct. 2017	May 2018
Purchase/deliver Materials	USFS & partners	June 2018	Aug. 2018
Fence and trail reconstruction	USFS & partners	June 2018	Sept. 2018
Spruce propagation	USFS & Southern Highlands Reserve	Oct. 2018	Ongoing into 2019
Planting of spruce	USFS & partners	Spring of 2020	Spring of 2021

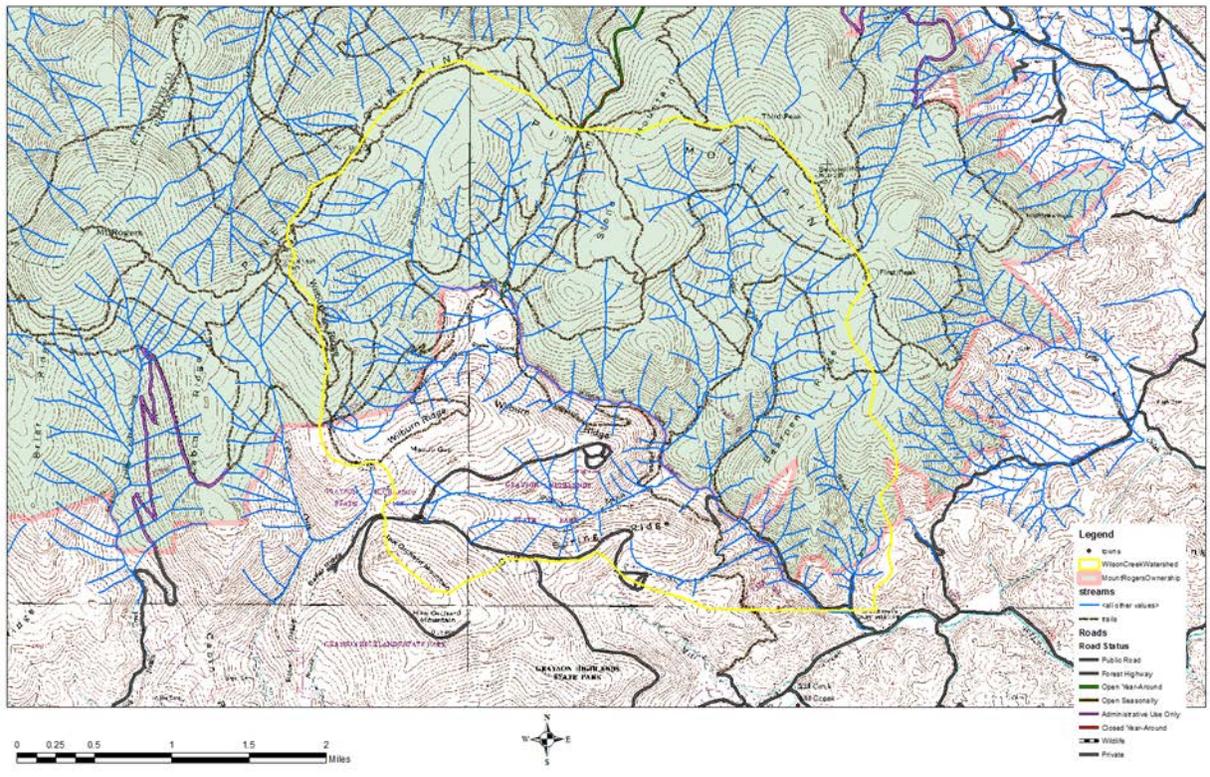
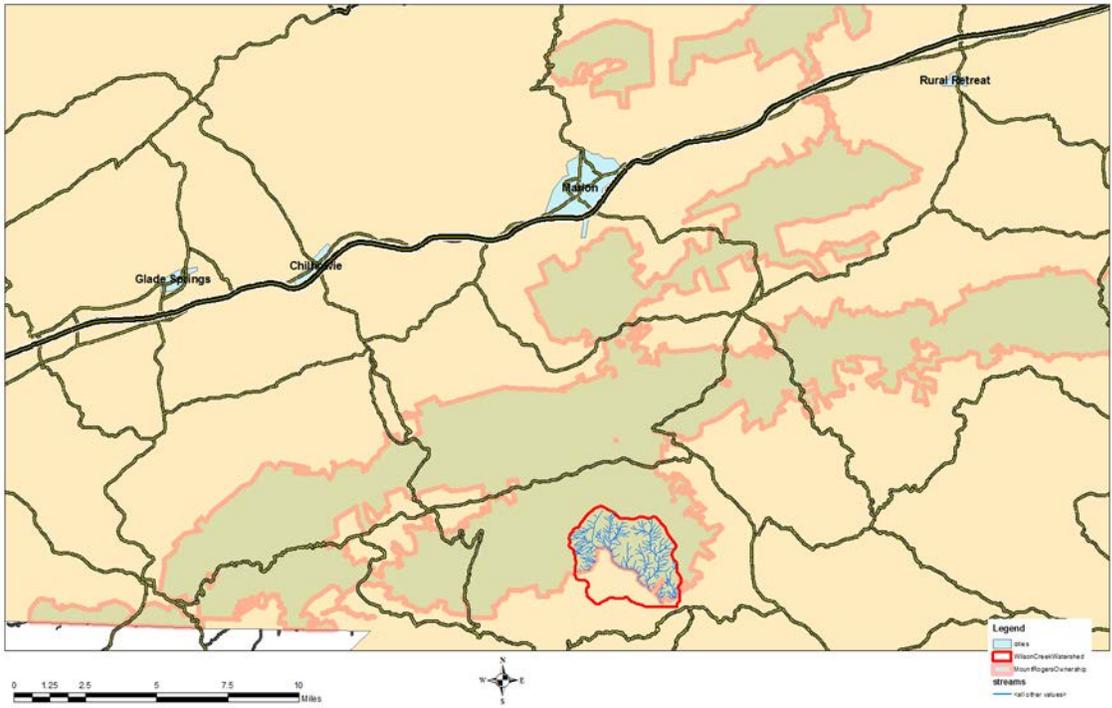
- E. Describe the Problem and Specific Cause of the Problem (Max Characters: 350):** Deforestation of red spruce and historic grazing in the high country, along with National level developed recreation trails are the specific threats to the trout resource within the watershed.

**F. Summarize the Project’s Expected Outcomes (Max Characters: 350):** Project will reduce chronic erosion and sedimentation coming from horse trails, protecting 15 stream miles downstream from the crossings. It will also protect headwater seeps from trampling erosion, and allow 300 acres of riparian vegetation to grow, further shading the stream and filtering field runoff. Riparian restoration will favor native red spruce, which in turn will provide a cool, moist microclimate consistent with maintaining native brook trout streams. This project is in alignment with the EBTJV, the Jefferson Forest Plan, and Virginia’s State Wildlife Action Plan.

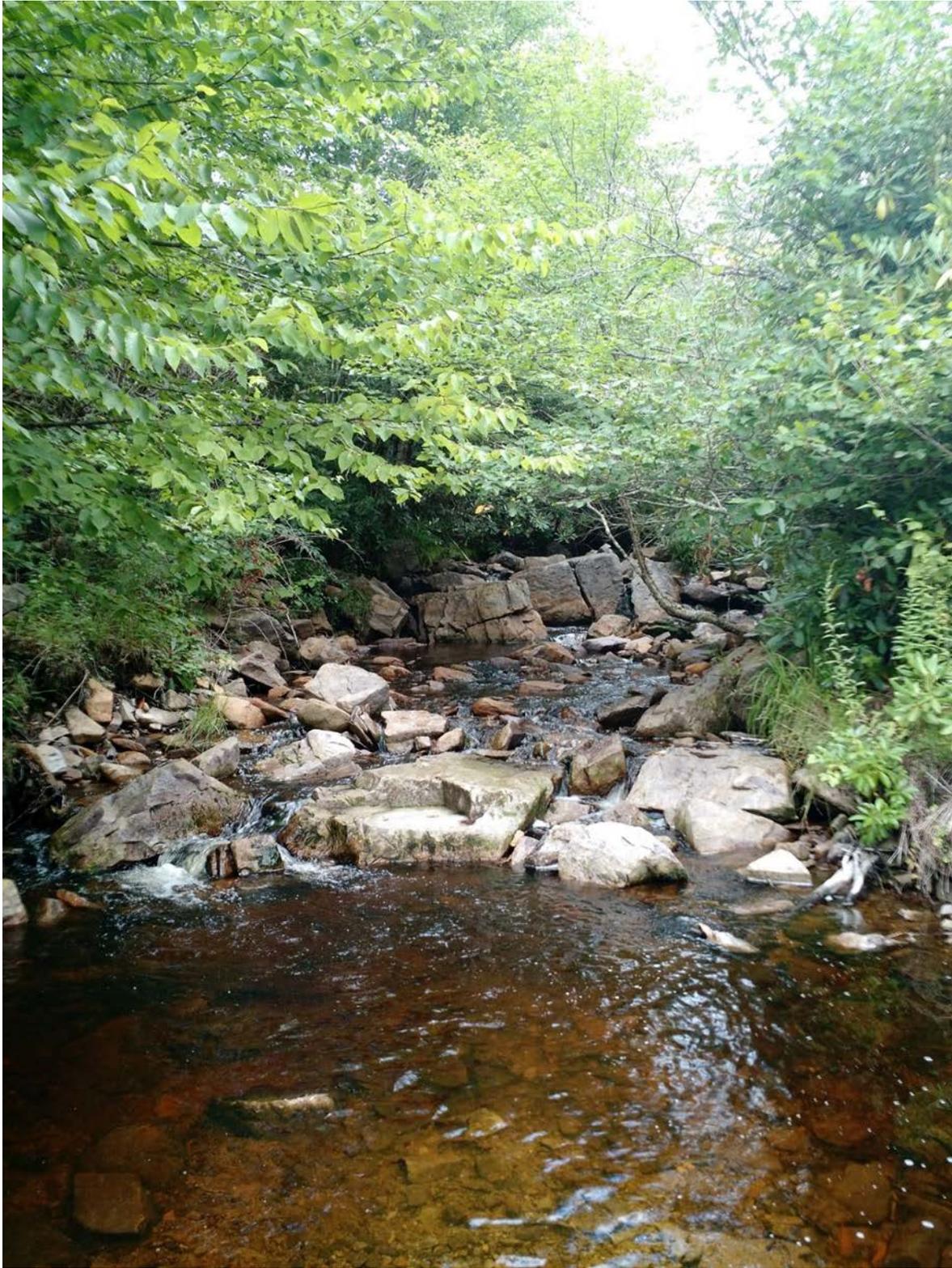
**G. Partner Information:**

<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>In-Kind Contribution</b>	<b>Cash Contribution</b>	<b>Federal or Non-Federal Contribution</b>	<b>Partner Category</b>
VDGIF	\$8,000	\$5,000	Non-Federal	State Agency
Grayson Highlands State Park	\$6,000		Non-Federal	State Agency
Emory and Henry College	\$2,000		Non-Federal	College
Trout Unlimited	\$5,000		Non-Federal	Conservation Organization
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	\$2,000		Non-Federal	Conservation Organization
Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club	\$1,000		Non-Federal	Non-profit Trail Club
The Nature Conservancy	\$2,000		Non-Federal	Conservation Organization
Southern Highlands Reserve	\$13,000		Non-Federal	Conservation Non-profit
Forest Service	\$20,000		Federal	Federal Agency
Blue Ridge Discovery Center	\$6,000		Non-Federal	Conservation Education Non-profit

**II. PROVIDE A MAP OF THE PROJECT AREA**



**III. PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPH(S) OF THE PROJECT AREA**



**Wilson Creek, photo taken 8/11/2016 by Dawn Kirk, USFS**



**VA Highland Horse trail crossing tributary to Wilson Creek, photo taken 8/11/2016 by Dawn Kirk, USFS**

**IV. PROJECT BUDGET** (see next page for an example of the Project Budget Table)

**Project Budget Table Example**

Partner Name	Partner Category *	Activity of Partner **	Budget Category***	EBTJV NFHAP Request	Non-Federal Contribution		Federal Contribution		Total Contribution	Acres/Miles Affected
					In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash		
Southern Highlands Reserve	Conservation Organization	restoration	Technical Services		\$13,000				13,000	15 miles
VDGIF	State agency	restoration	supplies			\$5,000			5,000	15 miles
		monitoring	Technical Services		\$8,000				8,000	15 miles
Emory and Henry College	College	monitoring	Technical Services		\$2,000				2,000	15 miles
US Forest Service	Federal agency	restoration	Technical/Labor				\$10,000		10,000	15 miles
		restoration and education	Technical Services Equipment				\$5,000		5,000	15 miles
		monitoring	Technical Services				\$5,000		5,000	15 miles
Trout Unlimited	Conservation Group (national)	monitoring	Technical Services		\$2,500				2,500	15 miles
		restoration	supplies		\$2,500				2,500	15 miles
Grayson Highlands State Park	State Park	restoration and education	Technical/Labor		\$6,000				6,000	15 miles
Blue Ridge Discovery Center	Conservation Group	Project Coordination	Technical/Labor		\$6,000				6,000	15 miles
Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club										
		restoration	Technical Services		\$1,000				1,000	15 miles
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Conservation Organization	restoration	Technical Services		\$2,000				2,000	15 miles

Nature Conservancy	State University	restoration	Technical Services		\$2,000				2,000	
USFWS/EBTJV	Federal agency	restoration	contractual	\$50,000					50,000	15 miles
Total Contribution				50,000	45,000	5,000	20,000		120,000	15 miles

\*Partner Categories - Federal Agency, State Agency, Local Government, Conservation Group (Local), Conservation Group (National), Native American Tribe, Private Landowners, Corporations/Businesses

\*\*Activity - Acquisition, Fish Ladder, Dam Removal, Culvert Removal, Restoration, Monitoring

\*\*\*Budget Categories – Administration/Technical Services, Construction Material, Construction Labor, Equipment, Contractual, Travel, Supplies, Other.

**NOTE: This is not a Federal Grant program and therefore does not exclude non-federal match used here from being matched to other Federal Grant sources to leverage funds for the project.** Indicate if partnering contributions are in-kind or new cash. NFHAP requests should illustrate how the dollars will be spent and by what organization. Overhead such as utilities, office space, and salary to prepare applications and develop partnerships will not be funded with NFHAP funds and should not be a line item or built into the project. Activities that directly relate to completion of the project such as travel and salary to do design work let and/or monitor contracts are allowable expenses with NFHAP funds but should not constitute more than 10% of the funding request. For more information on the use of NFHAP funds, please see <http://www.fws.gov/policy/717fw1.html>.

## V. PROJECT EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. **What are the GPS Coordinates for the Project site (please use UTM NAD 83):**  
Center of watershed is: 456868.829 4056095.536
2. **List the type of Project that will be implemented (protection, enhancement, restoration; see definitions in the Appendix A).** Protection
3. **Are Brook Trout currently present at the Project site or have access to the Project site? If not, were Brook Trout historically present?** Brook trout are currently present in the project streams and tributaries.
4. **Please describe how the Project will conserve Brook Trout and/or its habitat?** The project will maintain water quality and habitat to sustain brook trout populations and other aquatic organisms for 15 miles of stream through headwater protection, riparian re-forestation, and reduced erosion/sedimentation.
5. **Is the Project site located on/along private or public land? Is the land currently under any form of protection (e.g. conservation easement)?** The project is completely within the National Forest and State Park; it is on public land, protected in perpetuity.
6. **What percentage of the watershed above the Project site is protected in perpetuity?** 100%
7. **List the specific EBTJV range-wide habitat goal(s) and objective(s) addressed by the Project and describe how the Project will contribute towards achieving them (refer to the list of EBTJV range-wide habitat goals and objectives in the Appendix B).**

GOAL	OBJECTIVE
Maintain the current number of wild Brook Trout patches (i.e. no net loss)	Retain at least 3,838 sympatric wild Brook Trout patches (1.2, 1.3, and 1.4) across the EBTJV geographic range by the year 2022.

The project will maintain and strengthen suitable water quality and habitat by providing stream shading through spruce restoration in the riparian corridor, protection of source water, and reduction of erosion/sedimentation.

8. **List the EBTJV key conservation action(s) the Project addresses (refer to the list of EBTJV key conservation actions in the Appendix C).**
  - Conserve and/or increase habitats that support robust wild Brook Trout populations
  - Conserve genetic diversity of wild Brook Trout populations
  - Minimize threats to wild Brook Trout populations (e.g., degraded water quality, invasive species, altered hydrologic regimes)

**9. What are the EBTJV Feature ID# and Classification Code for the catchment(s) where the Project work will be implemented (see Appendix D for a description on how to determine both items)?**

The EBTJV Catchment classification shows 0.3 for the catchment that is highest up in the watershed. The 0.3 denotes rainbow trout only, however, it is known that brook trout are in these smallest, high elevation streams. This part of the EBTST should be validated.

- Catchment Feature ID#: 6889150, 6889092, 6889074, 6889052, 6890312, 6890316
- Catchment Classification Code: 0.3, 1.3P, 1.3P, 1.3P, 1.3P, 1.3P

**10. Will the Project result in re-establishing wild Brook Trout within the catchment?** The project will result in protecting wild brook trout populations and their habitat, not re-establishment.

**11. Is/are the catchment(s) where the Project work will be implemented located in a Wild Trout Patch; if so what is the Wild Trout Patch Feature ID# and Classification Code (see Appendix E for a description on how to determine both items)?**

- Wild Trout Patch Feature ID#: 688925.0
- Wild Trout Patch Classification Code: 1.4

**12. Will the Project benefit any federally listed threatened or endangered species or FWS priority species (refer to the list of FWS priority species for Region 4 and Region 5 in Appendix F)?** The spruce restoration within the project has the potential to benefit the federally listed spruce-fur moss spider and the Carolina northern flying squirrel.

**13. Will the Project benefit any state listed threatened or endangered species or species of greatest conservation need?** This project area contains one of the highest concentrations of rare species and significant plant communities in the Commonwealth. Included is Virginia's only population of the globally rare, Southern Appalachian endemic tree, Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*). Fraser fir has been identified as a species of concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The spruce-fir and northern hardwood forest communities in the High Country are home for the federally endangered northern flying squirrel, rare salamanders, several globally rare plant species, and what may be one of the best breeding concentrations of forest birds in Virginia, including several that are the southernmost of their global breeding ranges.

**14. What are the root causes of degradation in the catchment(s) where the Project is located and which of these are addressed by the Project?** Deforestation of red spruce and historic grazing in the high country, along with National level developed recreation trails. These are addressed by the project through reforestation and protection of the riparian corridor, and trail reconstruction/maintenance.

**15. Describe the plans for measuring the Project's success in meeting its goals and objectives.** Red spruce restoration and other riparian and wetland vegetation will be monitored. Trail sustainability will also continue to be evaluated after the project. Water quality sites and electrofishing surveys will be utilized for longer term monitoring of the watershed.

- 16. Does the Project support any goals in existing action plan(s) (e.g. state fish & wildlife, watershed protection, water quality improvement, land or water-use plan(s), or other regional plan(s))?** The project addresses the desired conditions as set forth in the Jefferson Forest Plan (2004), in addition to the VA state wildlife action plan.
- 17. Are there invasive fish species within the Project site or have access (no barrier) to it?** Rainbow trout are found within the lower sections of the watershed.
- 18. Are hatchery-reared salmonids stocked at the Project site or that have access (no barrier) to it?** No
- 19. Please describe the current status of the Project. Is it planned, permitted, and ready to begin?** The project is going through the NEPA process with the FS.
- 20. Will public access be allowed at the Project site? If so, what kinds of recreational activities are allowed – fishing, hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, etc.?** The project is on public land within the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, and the adjoining Grayson Highlands State Park. Fishing, hiking, camping, horseback riding, and hunting are allowed.
- 21. Will the Project improve recreational fishing opportunities for wild Brook Trout? If so, please describe the improvement and how the improvement will be measured?** The project will only increase the recreation fishing opportunities for wild brook trout in so much that it will help protect and maintain existing populations now and into the future.
- 22. Please describe the outreach or educational components associated with the Project.** By utilizing the Forest Service visitor centers and partnering with Grayson Highlands State Park, watershed health displays will be used to bring the philosophies of the project to the public. With thousands of visitors to these visitor centers, there is a high likelihood of reaching numerous individuals.
- 23. Please describe how this Project lessens the effects of climate change on Brook Trout.** All of the streams in the watershed support native wild brook trout, and because of their spring-fed sources and high elevation, will be quality refugia in terms of water quality, quantity, and thermal characteristics during times of climate uncertainty; they need to be protected.
- 24. Please explain how this Project is a good investment of funds, particularly in terms of its recreational and/or economic value.** With a n EBTJV investment of \$50,000 for over 15 miles of federally/state protected quality trout habitat over the expected 10+ year life of the project, the cost per mile per year is about \$333, much less than most restoration projects. Furthermore, protection of already in-tact, outstanding trout habitat is priceless.

## **VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

- **Literature Cited**
- **References to published interagency fishery or aquatic resource management plans.**  
2015. Draft Virginia Wildlife Action Plan. Mount Rogers Planning Region.  
[http://bewildvirginia.org/wildlife-action-plan/draft/11\\_Mount\\_Rogers\\_Planning\\_Region.pdf](http://bewildvirginia.org/wildlife-action-plan/draft/11_Mount_Rogers_Planning_Region.pdf)
- 2004. Jefferson National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan.  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3834578>

## Appendix A

### *Definitions*

Protection: Conservation actions that maintain, or prevent the decline of, aquatic habitat.

Enhancement: Conservation actions that heighten, intensify, or improve specific functions of aquatic habitat.

Restoration: Conservation actions that return natural/historic attributes or functions to aquatic habitat.

## Appendix B

### *EBTJV Range-wide Habitat Goals and Objectives*

GOAL	OBJECTIVE
Increase the average size (km <sup>2</sup> ) of wild Brook Trout patches, which is currently 19 km <sup>2</sup>	Increase the size (km <sup>2</sup> ) of 30 wild Brook Trout patches by the year 2022.
Restore wild Brook Trout to catchments where they were extirpated	Establish wild Brook Trout in 15 extirpated catchments by the year 2022.
Maintain the current number of wild Brook Trout patches (i.e. no net loss)	Retain at least 6,022 allopatric wild Brook Trout patches (1.1) across the EBTJV geographic range by the year 2022.  Retain at least 3,838 sympatric wild Brook Trout patches (1.2, 1.3, and 1.4) across the EBTJV geographic range by the year 2022.
Increase connectivity within and among wild Brook Trout catchments	Complete Aquatic Organism Passage projects within 45 wild Brook Trout catchments by 2022.

## Appendix C

### *EBTJV Key Conservation Actions*

- Increase recreational fishing opportunities for wild Brook Trout
- Conserve and/or increase habitats that support robust wild Brook Trout populations
- Restore and reconnect suitable habitats adjacent to robust wild Brook Trout populations
- Conserve genetic diversity of wild Brook Trout populations
- Conserve unique wild Brook Trout life history strategies (e.g., lacustrine populations, large river populations, and coastal populations).
- Minimize threats to wild Brook Trout populations (e.g., degraded water quality, invasive species, altered hydrologic regimes)

## Appendix D

To determine the EBTJV Feature ID# and Classification Code for the catchment where your Project work will be implemented, please follow these steps:

1. Click on this [Brook Trout Integrated Spatial Data and Tools](#) link;
2. Put a  $\sqrt{\quad}$  mark in the box next to the Legend label EBTJV Classified Catchments to display this data layer;
3. Locate the catchment where your Project work will be implemented; you can increase or decrease the map scale by selecting the appropriate map scale (see drop down menu located in the lower left hand corner) or use the wheel on your mouse. You can also change the layer's transparency by clicking the yellow light icon that is associated with this layer in the Legend and sliding the opacity bar.
4. Once you have located the Project's catchment, find the Identify Features button at the top of the page (hovering your cursor over each button will identify its function). Open the drop down menu for this function and select the EBTJV Classified Catchments layer, and then click the Identify Features button once to turn it on.
5. Next move your cursor within the boundary of the project's catchment and click once. A Feature Information box will appear on your screen and you will see the catchment's "featureid" number and "ebtjv\_code". Record both numbers in the appropriate locations in the Project Application Form.

## Appendix E

To determine the EBTJV Wild Trout Patch Feature ID# and Classification Code for the catchment where your Project work will be implemented, please follow these steps:

1. Click on this [Brook Trout Integrated Spatial Data and Tools](#) link;
2. Put a  $\sqrt{\quad}$  mark in the box next to the Legend label Wild Trout Habitat Patches to display this data layer;
3. Locate the catchment where your Project work will be implemented; you can increase or decrease the map scale by selecting the appropriate map scale (see drop down menu located in the lower left hand corner) or use the wheel on your mouse. You can also change the layer's transparency by clicking the yellow light icon that is associated with this layer in the Legend and sliding the opacity bar.
4. Once you have located the Project's catchment, find the Identify Features button at the top of the page (hovering your cursor over each button will identify its function). Open the drop down menu for this function and select the Wild Trout Habitat patches layer, and then click the Identify Features button once to turn it on.
5. Next move your cursor within the boundary of the Project's catchment and click once. A Feature Information box will appear on your screen and you will see the catchment's "feat\_id" number and "ebtjv\_code". Record both numbers in the appropriate locations in the Project Application Form.

## Appendix F

### *FWS Priority Species*

	<b>R5</b>	<b>R4</b>
Acipenser brevirostrum, Shortnose Sturgeon	x	x
Acipenser fluvescens, Lake Sturgeon	x	x
Acipenser oxyrinchus, Atlantic Sturgeon	x	
Acipenser oxyrinchus, Atlantic Sturgeon - Carolina DPS		x
Acipenser oxyrinchus, Atlantic Sturgeon - Chesapeake Bay DPS	x	
Acipenser oxyrinchus, Atlantic Sturgeon - Gulf of Maine DPS	x	
Acipenser oxyrinchus, Atlantic Sturgeon - New York Blight DPS	x	
Acipenser oxyrinchus, Atlantic Sturgeon - South Atlantic DPS		x
Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi, Gulf Sturgeon		x
Alasmidonta heterodon, Dwarf Wedgemussel	x	
Alosa aestivalis, Blueback Herring	x	x
Alosa alabamae, Alabama Shad		x
Alosa mediocris, Hickory Shad	x	x
Alosa pseudoharengus, Alewife	x	
Alosa sapidissima, American Shad	x	x
Ablema neislerii, Fat Threeridge		x
Ambystoma bishopi, Reticulated Flatwoods Salamander		x
Ambystoma singulatum, Flatwoods Salamander		x
Anguilla rostrata, American Eel	x	x
Atractosteus spatula, Alligator Gar		x
Cambarus hartii, Piedmont Blue Burrower		x
Crassostrea virginica, Eastern Oyster		x
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi, Ozark Hellbender		x
Crystallaria asprella, Crystal Darter		x
Crystallaria cincotta, Diamond Darter	x	
Cynoscion nebulosus, Spotted Seatrout		x
Cyprinella callitaenia, Bluestripe Shiner		x
Cyprogenia stegaria, Fanshell	x	
Elliptio chipolaensis, Chipola Slabshell		x
Elliptio purpurella, Inflated Spike		x
Elliptoideus sloatianus, Purple Bankclimber		x
Epioblasma capsaeformis, Oyster Mussel	x	
Epioblasma torulosa rangiana, Northern Riffleshell	x	
Erimonax monachus, Spotfin Chub		x
Erimystax cahni, Slender Chub	x	
Etheostoma boschungii, Slackwater Darter		x
Etheostoma chienense, Relict Darter		x
Etheostoma moorei, Yellowcheek Darter		x

Etheostoma okaloosae, Okaloosa Darter		X
Etheostoma percnurum, Duskytail Darter	X	X
Etheostoma raneyi, Yazoo Darter		X
Etheostoma sellare, Maryland Darter	X	
Etheostoma sp., Bluemask Darter		X
Fundulus julisia, Barrens Topminnow		X
Ictalurus punctatus, Channel Catfish		X
Lampsilis subangulata, Shiny-rayed Pocketbook		X
Lampsilis virescens, Alabama Lampmussel		X
Lasmigona decorata, Carolina Heelsplitter		X
Lepomis auritus, Redbreast Sunfish		X
Lepomis macrochirus, Bluegill		X
Lepomis microlophus, Redear Sunfish		X
Limulus polyphemus, Horseshoe Crab	X	
Margaritifera hembeli, Louisiana Pearlshell		X
Marstonia castor, Beaverspond Marstonia		X
Medionidus penicillatus, Gulf Mocassinshell		X
Medionidus simpsonianus, Ochlockonee Mocassinshell		X
Micropterus cataractae, Shoal Bass		X
Micropterus dolomieu, Smallmouth Bass		X
Micropterus henshalli, Alabama Spotted Bass		X
Micropterus punctulatus, Spotted Bass		X
Micropterus salmoides, Largemouth Bass		X
Morone chrysops, White Bass		X
Morone saxatilis, Striped Bass	X	X
Moxostoma robustum, Robust Redhorse		X
Moxostoma sp., Sicklefin Redhorse		X
Noturus flavipinnis, Yellowfin Madtom	X	X
Oncorhynchus clarkii, Cutthroat Trout		X
Oncorhynchus mykiss, Rainbow, Steelhead, Redband Trout		X
Percina caprodes, Logperch		X
Percina jenkinsi, Conasauga Logperch		X
Percina rex, Roanoke Logperch	X	
Percina sp. cf. palmeris, Halloween Darter		X
Percopsis omiscomaycus, Trout-Perch		X
Phencobius mirabilis, Suckermouth Minnow		X
Phoxinus cumberlandensis, Blackside Dace	X	
Pleurobema clava, Clubshell	X	
Pleurobema collina, James River Spinymussel	X	
Pleurobema pyriforme, Oval Pigtoe		X
Polyodon spathula, American Paddlefish		X

Potamilus capax, Fat Pocketbook		X
Procambarus econfinae, Panama City Crayfish		X
Pteronotropis euryzonus, Broadstripe Shiner		X
Pylodictus olivaris, Flathead Catfish		X
Quadrula sparsa, Appalachian Monkeyface Pearlmussel	X	
Rachycentron canadum, Cobia		X
Salmo salar, Atlantic Salmon	X	
Salmo salar, Atlantic Salmon, GOM DPS	X	
Salmo trutta, Brown Trout		X
Salvelinus fontinalis, Brook Trout	X	X
Salvelinus namaycush, Lake Trout	X	X
Sander canadensis, Sauger		X
Sander vitreus, Walleye		X
Scaphirhynchus albus, Pallid Sturgeon		X
Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus, Shovelnose Sturgeon		X
Scaphirhynchus suttkusi, Alabama Sturgeon		X
Sciaenops ocellatus, Red Drum		X
Scomberomorus maculatus, Spanish Mackerel		X
Villosa fabalis, Rayed Bean	X	
Villosa perpurpurea, Purple Bean	X	



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

**Molly J. Ward**  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

**Robert W. Duncan**  
*Executive Director*

September 8, 2017

RE: Wilson Watershed Improvement, Wilson Creek, Fairwood, VA

EBTJV/NFHP Grant Application Committee:

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) fully supports the proposed watershed improvement project proposed for the Wilson Creek Watershed in Fairwood, Virginia. The wild brook trout population is significant biologically and recreationally. Watershed management will alleviate impacts from horseback riders, wild ponies, and the many hikers utilizing this portion of the Appalachian Trail.

We plan to work with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor brook trout populations within this watershed both pre and post improvement. VDGIF encourages the approval of this important project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Stephen J. Reeser*

Stephen J. Reeser  
Coldwater Stream Leader/EBTJV Member Rep.  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
P.O. Box 996  
Verona, VA 24482

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Service Representative: Callie McMunigal

Office and Phone: Appalachian F & W Conservation Office, White Sulphur Springs, WV (304) 536-1361 x151

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20160811 horsetrail crossing.jpg and 20160811 Willson Creek.jpg

Name: Dawn M. Kirk

Address: 27 Ranger Lane, Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579

Phone: 540-291-5211

Signature: Dawn M. Kirk

Date: 9/16/2016





